

APHIS Veterinary Examination Report

July 25, 2012

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History:

On 7/24/2012 I was asked by Jared Bybee with the BLM to examine a thin 3yr old mare (Jovianna) and her foal at the Britton Springs Corral. The pair was captured the previous day, July 23.

Exam Findings:

A visual exam only was performed at this time, as we agreed the advantages of a cursory hands on exam didn't justify putting them through the chute at that time. Both animals were very thin. The foal appeared to be 45-60 days old. Their Henneke scores were barely a 2. The foal attempted nursing the mare several times, but she did not seem to have any milk. The mare was eating the hay and the foal started picking at the hay and nibbling at some of the kochia in pen. Other than the obvious lack of feed I saw no additional health concerns.

Recommendations:

Given current forage conditions on the range, it seems unlikely to me this mare and foal would be able regain sufficient weight to survive if released out on range. In addition to the hay, I recommended supplemental feeding of an energy concentrate such as grain, introducing it in small amounts and increasing the amount slowly as they adapt to it. If the mare does not return to her milk or we determine a need for additional supplementation, we should consider more appropriate long term nutritional options for the foal.

Other observations:

On Monday, July 23, 2012 – I received a request from Jared Bybee to look over the horses (7 head) that had been captured thus far and taken to the Britton Springs Facility. All seven horses were bright and alert and looked to be in good health with no apparent injuries. They have a typical Henneke Body Condition Score of 4.5. The animals were separated by age and/or sex into two pens, each having adequate feed and water. The water troughs were clean and good quality grass hay was provided in appropriate quantities. The hay was Certified Weed. All of the animals were observed eating. The pens also have multiple 4'x8' sheets of particle board strategically placed to provide some shade for the pens.

I also went up to the Kruger Pond trap on top of the Dryhead (Elev. 8760 ft.) to see if there were any concerns there. The trap was set up away from the pond with hay and mineral blocks as bait. The trap was constructed with portable panels in a mostly circular fashion. Dark colored plastic snow fence was connected to the panels with plastic zip ties which created a nice visual barrier. The trap is big enough it should allow adequate room for about 15 horses dependent on size and attitude.